Mul facing stiff competition in the country

3949. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Maruti Ugyog Ltd. (MUL) is facing a stiff competition in several cities and towns in the country despite the growing popularity of Maruti cars;

(b) whether the sales centres of Maruti cars are not very inadequate in number when compared to its demand particularly in the metro and major cities;

(c) whether MUL proposes to increase its dealer network in those cities in view of the increasing demand of various models of MUL; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by MUL in that regard?;

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Maruti Udyog Limited is facing competition from other car manufacturers. However it has been maintaining majority market share.

(d) According to MUL, it has the largest dealer netwoork in the country among all players in the industry.

(c) and (d) The Government of India is a minority stakeholder in the company. However, the expansion of sales network by MUL is a continuous process. It is based on changing demand potential in various markets across the country.

Loss in Andrew Yule & Company

3950. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andrew Yule & Company has incurred loss in recent years;

(b) whether Government have received any revival scheme from the company for approval; and

(c) if so, by when the revival scheme is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Company has been incurring losses since the year 2000-2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The final view on the scheme is yet to be taken.

Employees working in Heavy Industries

†3951. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the strength of employees working in heavy industries under his Ministry has been reduced during the period of March, 1999 to December 2002;

(b) if so, the number of employees working during March, 1999; and December, 2002, respectively; and

(c) the number of employees reduced during the above period, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the number of employees working in PSEs under department of Heavy Industry as on 31.3.1999 and 31.12.2002 was 1,76,801 and 1,12,407 respectively. The total number of employees reduced during the period was 64,394 (Executives 9,188, supervisors 6,386 and workmen/others 48,820).

Publicity in border areas

†3952. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR:
SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that special arrangements have been made for publicity in border areas through mediums like Doordarshan;

(b) the names of the States for which such an arrangement is in force;

(c) the number of proposals received for making documentary on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.